



West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Service

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DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA—Commercial red meat production during December 2003 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was 2 percent below November 2003 and 9 percent below December 2002 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,174,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from December 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 891 pounds was down 30 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 222,000 pounds live weight, down 13 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 250 pounds was down 24 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial Sheep and Lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES —Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97,500 head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2003 commercial red meat production was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.